IN THE ABSTRACT:

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the new abstract as follows. A new abstract numbered page 37 is enclosed as the last page of the application following the claims.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A microstructured optical fibre has a core region with a material having a refractive index n_{co} and a microstructured region surrounding the core region with a background material having a refractive index n_m which is lower than the refractive index n_{co}. The microstructured region has a plurality of microstructures having a refractive index different from the refractive index n_m, wherein the distance Δ_Φ between the centers of any couple of adjacent microstructures is at least equal to about λ_p and not higher than about $1.5\lambda_p$, wherein λ_p is the spatial variation length of the electric field intensity in the microstructured region.